National Congress Bulletin

September 1941 Published by The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Chicago, Ill. Vol. 9, No. 1

Dear Local President:

IN THIS, the first BULLETIN of the 1941-42 season, it is my privilege to greet you who have answered the call to service. For that is what leadership in a parent-teacher association is—a call to service. When you were installed you dedicated yourself to the service of the children of your community. You enlisted also in that wider program of service which has as its objective the health, welfare, and safety of childhood and youth in all communities everywhere.

Yours is no simple and no easy task. If it were, it would lack the challenge that makes endeavor vital and achievement satisfying. You who are "an officer of the line" in this humanitarian army will probably be called upon to meet greater challenges than ordinarily fall to the lot of a local leader, for these are unusual times. You must be prepared to meet unusual situations; you must be vigilant to sense the import of what is happening around you; you must see to it that your forethought places your organization squarely in the position of safeguarding the children of the community from unnecessary loss of the services which are their due. Wise planning has been known to turn a liability into an asset. Unusual times are times of opportunity for greater service.

It is important to parents that children have security; that they are given adequate educational facilities; that they are safeguarded as to their physical and emotional health. It is of paramount importance to the citizenry as a whole that childhood and youth are continually so protected. It is absurd to believe that a community or a nation can prosper, or even survive, if its children are pushed aside. We are pledged to keep this truth ever before the minds of our fellow citizens. Let us, then, keep it ever foremost in our own hearts.

Virginia Klebs

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING IN CHICAGO

THE radio project committee report, Plans of Work of the committees on Citizenship and Congress Publications, and other business necessary to an integrated national program are on the agenda of the Executive Committee, which meets on the day preceding and the day following the Fall Board Meeting in Chicago, scheduled for Friday, September 19, and Saturday, September 20, at the Hotel Stevens.

Reports concerning publications, the Alice McLellan Birney memorial, the traffic safety education project, and reports from the program committee on legislation and from the Joint Committee of N.E.A. and N.C.P.T. will be considered by the Board.

Special committees will meet on Tuesday, September 16; on Wednesday, September 17, a National-State Relationships Conference for state presidents and national officers will be held. The National Chairmen's Conference and the State Presidents' Conference will be held on Thursday, September 18.

A GROWING MEMBERSHIP

THE most important enterprise in the country today is the building of an enlightened citizenry. The most important man and the most important woman in the country today are the American *father* and the American *mother*. The most important resources in the country today are its growing children, in whose minds lie hidden the plans and specifications of a more perfect democratic way of life. Little wonder, then, that the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is vitally concerned about these boys and girls. The National Congress today is more than an organization, it is a great humanitarian movement; it has long been more than a discussion group, it has become a parliament of generous minds. There are already almost three million of us, for we added over 100,000 members last year, and every new member means another supporter of the movement, another mind in the parliament. It is clear to each of us that no one person can correct the serious problems which still exist and which need consideration and action. But multiply one by millions and watch the progress that is being made. When there are four million of us or five million of us or ten million of us, organized and pledged to the service of childhood and youth, many more will be the changes for good throughout the land. It is time, therefore, for us to re-evaluate, not only for ourselves but for potential members, the meaning of membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

- First and foremost it means the good of our own children. It will keep us mindful of our high responsibility to all children, for make no mistake about it, while our neighbor's child is in danger, no child of ours is safe. Through its constantly promulgated ideals, through its challenge to service, through its sound and helpful publications, and through the opportunities it offers for consultation and conference, it will deepen our wisdom and increase our effectiveness as parents and teachers.
- Membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will give us each a voice with which we can speak to the nation, hands with which we can help our children, and a light to hold for our neighbor.

Let us then make the 1941 membership enrollment the greatest in the history of our great organization!

National Committees at Work

Programs and Founders Day

"WORLD AFFAIRS are moving so fast that any program outlined now should be open to changes and enlargement," said Mrs. Fred M. Raymond, national chairman, in a recent letter to state chairmen of Programs and Founders Day.

Referring to an enclosed copy of the Platform and Findings of the National Congress, which were approved at the Boston Convention, Mrs. Raymond suggested its use as a basis for the year's program, pointing out that a special emphasis on defense in its broadest sense should underlie all plans for the year. Interpretation of the Findings to suit the needs of individual states is expected of state chairmen.

"Reports from a majority of the states bring word of encouraging progress," she said. "There is a better understanding of the desirability of a planned program made in advance of the beginning of the year's activities in September.

"Many states have prepared special program helps," she observed. "The function of the national chairman seems to be better understood, and fewer requests for individual help have been received from local or council leaders. The state chairmen have contributed their full share to the success of the work in the states."

Motion Pictures and Visual Education

W. E. Rosenstengel, national chairman, formerly superintendent of schools in Columbia, Missouri, has been appointed to a professorship in Education at the University of North Carolina, where he has taught in the summer sessions for a number of years.

In sending a digest of state activities to the chairmen of his committee, Dr. Rosenstengel congratulated them upon the good work that has been done throughout the nation in the area of motion pictures and visual education.

Answers to questions upon which the digest was based revealed a growing use of educational films in the schools; the establishment of film libraries; greater discrimination on the part of parents in the type of films they are permitting their children to see; the sponsoring of photoplay appreciation classes in the schools; cooperation with the state departments of education and with colleges in studying and solving mutual problems.

The digest was based on the following questions:

What has been done in the way of promoting visual education in the schools of the state? What has been done to educate parents concerning the value of visual aids in teaching? What have you done to educate parents as to the effects of motion pictures upon the physical, mental, and emotional health of children? What methods have you used? List any tangible results you can see that are due to your work on this problem. What has been done in your state to educate parents and children in motion picture discrimination? What materials have you used in promoting your work? Make a list of the activities you have performed during the past year as state chairman. What can the national chairman of this department do to assist you in your chairmanship?

Exceptional Child

Recommended by John E. Anderson, national chairman of the committee on the Exceptional Child, is a publication recently issued by the U.S. Office of Education. It is "State Supervisory Programs for the Education of Exceptional Children" by Elise H. Martens, Bulletin No. 6, 1940, Monograph No. 10. It can be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 25 cents.

"The particular merit of this publication lies in its description of the legal provisions for the exceptional child," said Dr. Anderson, "of the organization of programs in various states, together with the state aid available to meet the excess cost of the education of exceptional children. It will repay careful study."

Rural Service

William McKinley Robinson, national chairman, has requested each state Rural Service chairman to send next spring a brief account of some one project or program carried through by a local rural unit or county council with noteworthy success, this to work toward any one of the three objectives noted in the national Plan of Work.

"No one of these three is any less significant today than it was a year ago although the defense program has had its effect upon each," Dr. Robinson told the state chairmen in his letter mailed from the National Office. "Rural as well as urban people are enjoying the spurt of greater economic prosperity. In a somewhat different way, in some areas more intensely, we are today aware of the problems bearing on child welfare which were dealt with in the White House Conference. But present conditions do not invalidate the findings and recommendations of the Conference; rather, they but give added impetus for us to move forward."

The three objectives mentioned in the Plan of Work are: (1) to study and follow through the findings and recommendations of the 1940 White House Conference insofar as they concern rural welfare; (2) to be ever mindful of the goal of equality of educational opportunity with emphasis upon better rural teachers as the most promising factor in its realization; and (3) to continue the program of study and action in relation to the problems of rural youth.

"As employment opportunities increase," Dr. Robinson pointed out, "it becomes more difficult for us to find desirable rural teachers. In a field where progress is made so very slowly, we can ill afford to lose any ground. The increase in employment is temporarily solving, after a fashion, one of the major problems of youth. But we should not be blind to the fact that for only a few has the problem of adequate vocational adjustment been solved for the duration of the emergency. What of the years to come? Are we again to be caught unaware and unprepared?

News concerning the work of other national chairmen will be published in the October BULLETIN.

OVER 16,000 LOCAL UNITS REPORT

Yearly themes based on community needs and resources claimed the attention of 10,883 P.T.A.'s of the 16,636 reporting for the annual state summary of local unit information for 1940-41.

Among the activities, Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children led all the subject committees, with 11,149 associations reporting work in this field. Next highest came Safety, with 7,444 units reporting, followed by Music, with 7,107. Parent Education work was reported by 6,903 organizations; Recreation, by 6,559; Reading and Library Service, by 6,031; Motion Pictures and Visual Education, by 5,864; Citizenship, by 5,784; Character and Spiritual Education, by 5,720; Education for Home and Family Life, by 5,306; School Education, by 4,820; Legislation, by 4,664; Juvenile Protection, by 4,304; Radio, by 4,221. Next came Social Hygiene, with 3,892 reporting; Mental Hygiene, with 3,251; Art, with 2,453; Study of the Effects of Alcohol and Narcotics, with 1,785; and International Relations, with 1,581 associations reporting activities.

Other Projects

Some P.T.A.'s have sponsored nutrition projects and vegetable gardens; some have sponsored children's theaters and school recreation programs. Seasonal entertainments, periodic fun nights, hobby shows, operettas, carnivals — all appear in the list of activities. One association reported owning and operating a skating rink, "properly supervised by members." There was widespread cooperation with other organizations, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Red Cross, and social service groups.

Types of Programs

Although under "types of programs" lecture presentations were reported most frequent, school demonstrations, dramatizations, panels, round tables, and forums were given by thousands of local units. Also popular were educational movies, quiz contests, book reviews, member participation, musical and recreational programs. A fashion show, for which clothing was made in classes, was reported.

Members enrolled in P.T.A. study groups throughout the country totaled 149,260, as reported by 6,957 units. Enrolled in adult classes were 70,004, reported by 2,347 associations. There were 5,023 persons enrolled in radio listening groups as reported by 2,388 units, and there were 1,544 persons enrolled in the reading groups reported by 2,551 associations. All of these groups showed a gain over the numbers reported last year.

Publications Used

Of the National Congress publications most frequently used, the *National Parent-Teacher*, the *National Congress Bulletin*, the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, *The Child in His Community*, *Schools for Democracy*, and materials on Founders Day led the list. Of the state publications, the bulletins were most popular.

Attention, Local Presidents

Please announce at the next meeting that the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine is not being merged with any other publication. Misinformed persons are circulating this rumor among prospective subscribers. It is absolutely without basis. The *National Parent-Teacher* has been published regularly since 1906, and it is today in the strongest position in its long history.

We are counting upon you to help us clear up this misunderstanding at the earliest possible moment.

Chairmen wishing to have their own copies of the Bulletin may subscribe for the nominal sum of 20c a year.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Voume 9 SEPTEMBER Number 1

Published monthly from September through May, bimonthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Subscription price: 20 cents a year.

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FALL STATE CONVENTIONS

Florida—November 5-6, Tampa
Iowa—October 7-9, Des Moines
Maine—October 1-2, Portland
Maryland—November 10-11, Silver Spring
Massachusetts—October 22-24, Boston
Minnesota—October 28-30, Brainerd
Missouri—October 7-9, Kansas City
Montana—October 7-9, Great Falls
Nebraska—October 8-10, Norfolk
Nevada—November 7-8, Las Vegas
New Jersey—October 29-31, Atlantic City
New York—October 6-9, Syracuse
Ohio—October 22-24, Columbus
Oklahoma—October 7-10, Ada
South Dakota—October 12-15, Aberdeen
Texas—November 4-6, Austin
Vermont—October 2-4, Windsor
Virginia—October 9-10, Lynchburg
West Virginia—October 7-9, Beckley

North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming plan district conferences for October.

AMERICAN MUSIC FOR 1942 CONVENTION

Various forms of American music including Southern, Western, Indian, and Mexican will be used by choral groups at the 1942 Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Rehearsals will start at once on the following songs announced by Mrs. Curtis Stout, national chairman of the committee on Music.

Mothersingers

1. *Candlelight.* Cadman. Theo. Presser Co., No. 21232. 10c.
2. *Lulle Lullay* (Tennessee) Niles-DeBrant. G. Schirmer, Inc., No. 8026. 10c.
3. *Ay, Ay, Ay* (Creole) Pitcher. C. C. Birchard & Co., No. 911. 15c.
4. *From the Land of the Sky-Blue Waters* (Omaha Tribal) Cadman. White-Smith Music Publishing Co., No. 7649. 12c.
5. *Medley from the Sunny South.* Harris. G. Schirmer, Inc., No. 7600. 20c.

Fathersingers

1. Three Chanteys (*Eight Bells; Away to Rio!; Old Man Noah*) Bartholomew. G. Schirmer, Inc., No. 7241. 20c.
2. *Sourwood Mountain* (Kentucky Mountain) Bartholomew-Hall. G. Schirmer, Inc., No. 8140. 15c.
3. *The Cowboy's Lament* (Western) Lomax-Fox. G. Schirmer, Inc., No. 7319. 12c.
4. *La Cucaracha* (Mexican) Riegger. Harold Flammer, Inc., No. 82073. 12c.
5. *Short'nin' Bread.* Wolfe. Harold Flammer, Inc., No. 82062. 16c.

Mixed Groups

1. *Jesus, the Christ, Is Born* (Appalachian) Niles. G. Schirmer, Inc., No. 8304. 12c.
2. *Rosemary and Thyme* (Arkansas) Powell. C. C. Birchard & Co., No. 995. 20c.
3. *Home on the Range* (Cowboy) Repper. C. C. Birchard & Co., No. 123. 16c.
4. *Rain and the River* (Texas) Oscar J. Fox. C. C. Birchard & Co., No. 1088. 16c.
5. *Carmencita* (Mexican) Riegger. Harold Flammer, Inc., No. 81070. 16c.

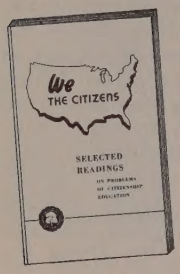
Music Publishers

G. Schirmer, Inc., 3 East 43rd St., New York, N. Y.; Harold Flammer, Inc., 10 East 43rd St., New York, N. Y.; C. C. Birchard & Co., 221 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.; White-Smith Music Publishing Co., 13 East Seventeenth St., New York, N. Y.; Theo. Presser, 1712 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

All music may be ordered from local dealers or from any of the aforementioned publishers.

NEW PARENT-TEACHER PUBLICATIONS

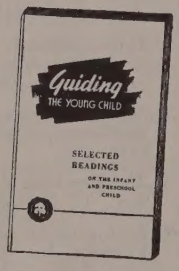
We, the Citizens — The articles in this booklet of 64 pages will furnish subject matter for many formal and informal discussions on problems of citizenship and youth. They are penetrating in their analysis and inspiring in their challenge. The articles are:



How Did the United States Come About?
It Is a Small World
How Much Are We Worth?
Youth, Our Greatest Resource
Citizenship Can Be Taught
With Liberty and Justice for All
Schools and Their Communities
Guidance for Effective Citizenship
When American Schools Are Democratic
All American
Foreign Ports
Our Part in the World Crisis

15c a copy.

Guiding the Young Child — This is also a 64-page booklet. It contains selected readings on the infant and preschool child. The articles are:



When Do We Eat?
What Shall We Wear?
I Talk to My Son About Teeth
With What Shall They Play?
Is Spanking Necessary?
Whose Fault Is It?
When Children Fail to Tell the Truth
How Children Learn
The Antidote for Comics
The New Baby
The Adopted Child
Leave Your Children Alone

The material deals with child development through the early years. Parents can use the articles as the foundation for better, more adaptable guidance procedures — a fundamental contribution to the strength of a nation and a civilization. 15c a copy.

Proceedings—1941 Convention— The 1941 *Proceedings* of the Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is a comprehensive source book containing:

Convention addresses
Panel discussions
Conference reports
Reports of parent-teacher section meetings
Statistical records
Reports of:
- National Officers
- State Presidents
- National Chairmen

Other organizational information of interest to parent-teacher workers

The *Proceedings* will be off press October 1. $1.50 a copy.

GROWING IN STRENGTH AND VALUE

Official Magazine of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

The September issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* is replete with practical ideas and sound information. The two study courses, "Defense Begins at Home" and "How We Grow," conducted by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, get off to an invigorating start. The first article of the former, "The Homemaker Takes Over," by Afton Smith, prepares the mother of a family for her important part in strengthening her country's hands and in training her children as citizens of a democracy. The first article in the second study course, "Preparing for the Newcomer," by Harold H. Anderson, deals with a highly significant but often neglected aspect of preparation for parenthood — the preparation of mind and spirit. Each course is accompanied with a convenient outline for group study. It is hard to see how more valuable material for the use of the American family in this strenuous hour could be assembled in more attractive and convenient form than are these articles as presented in the Magazine. Parent-teacher members who realize the worth of such systematic studies of the problems faced by all who deal with children should make it a point to introduce them to nonmembers and nonsubscribers.

Three stirring articles dealing with various phases of the national emergency are "Pictures and People," by Bruno Lasker, "Let's 'Take It'," by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, and "Democracy as a Great Social Faith," by George S. Counts. Mr. Lasker's grave and fair-minded presentation of the folly and danger of class, race, or religious prejudice should be read by every patriotic citizen in America. Dr. Arlitt's challenge to America's young people will give everyone something to think about. (The *National Parent-Teacher* is asking for its readers' opinions with regard to the theme of this article.) "Democracy as a Great Social Faith" is a clear exposition of the true nature of democracy, presented eloquently by one who feels the significance of the hour.

"Do Adolescents Need Parents?" is a question which many a reflective parent has asked himself. Katharine Whiteside Taylor made it the title of a successful book, and now she repeats the question in an article for the *National Parent-Teacher*. Whether or not your answer is the same as hers, you will find the article full of thought-provoking suggestions.

"Growing with Books," by Carol Ryrie Brink, is a delightful article on children's reading. Parents who are puzzled as to the basic principles of selection will here find dependable help as well as genuine reader interest.

"With Emphasis upon Nutrition," by Miriam E. Lowenberg, is a concise question-and-answer presentation on proper diet for the school child.

In addition to these varied and interesting features, the September *National Parent-Teacher* brings to its subscribers the message of our national president, Mrs. William Kletzer, "Ring Out, School Bells, Ring Out"; an editorial by Howard Braucher, "Beautiful for Spacious Skies"; a brief article on "Mental Hygiene and the School Child," by Joseph Miller; a thoughtful article, "Good Homes," by Florence C. Bingham; and two study program outlines, "Children in a Democracy" and "Guiding the High School Youth." The regular departments, *Books in Review, Around the Editor's Table,* and *P.T.A. Frontiers* carry material of special interest.

The Magazine grows in strength and value with every issue. Let us read it, display it, and promote it so that it may gain the influence it deserves.

Please show this page to the chairmen of Publications and Magazine.